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Letter To The Editor

Dear Mr. Vaughan,

I would like to take this opportunity, as chairman of the Bloodmobile, to express to you and the many businesses that gave the Blood Program all of the free publicity.

My sincere thanks to all the Civic organizations and others that offered their help. Time nor space would permit us to express thanks to everyone involved.

As you know, with the sickness that prevailed, we had no hope of reaching our goal, but once again, the citizens of our community arose to the occassion and we collected 105 pints of blood. Our goal was 102 pints.

Once again, allow me to convey my sincere thanks to everyone for a job well done.

Rev. Earnie W. Lucas
Chairman: Bloodmobile

SEASONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Christmas presentation "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" will be given by the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church choir on Sunday evening, December 21, at 5 p.m. Choir members are Debbie Edmunds, Terri Dalton, Beth Carter, Donna Miller, Lorna Goin, Sandra Martin, Vaney Williamson, J. J. Dalton, Peggy Deyerle, Earl Martin, Marshall Goin, Dave Caldwell, Tommy Terry with L. J. Dalton, Flootist; Karen Gibson, Director; and Virginia Carnefix, accompanist.

A covered dish supper will follow the program in the church social hall. Church members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

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Charter Members Of Evergreen Baptist Church Honored

Of the eighty-nine Charter members of the Evergreen Baptist Church which had its first recorded church minutes on January 29,1907, only two are surviving, Mrs. J. Mott Harvey and Mrs. Martha Staples, both residing in Evergreen.

At the morning worship service on Sunday, December 14th, these two were honored. Mrs. Staples, a patient in the Lynchburg General Hospital where she is recovering from a broken hip sustained in a fall at her home was unable to be present.

Mrs. Harvey, age 85, affectionately known to her many friends as "Mattie Mott" was present to receive the engraved plaque and the corsage given in recognition of her many faithful years and unselfish devotion to the work of her church. She has taught the beginner Sunday School class for many many years and several generations can happily recall being in "Mattie Mott's" class. Present for the occasion were Mrs. Harvey's children, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. Garland Mayberry and Mrs. Wylie Richardson and several grandchildren.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Wooldridge visited Mrs. Staples in the hospital and presented her with the plaque and corsage in appreication of her many years of faithful attendance and worl in the W. M. U. and Sunday School.

Rev. Edmond N. Terry, Pastor, in the presentation, expressed the deep appreciation of the church to these charter members, who as tley served, watched the church grow from members to a total membership of 308; 251 resident and 57 nonresident members at the present time.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Appomattox Seventh-Day Adventist Church will host a special Christmas Program on Tuesday night, December 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the church located on Court Street. Christmas carols, an audio-visual feature on the birth and life of Christ, a candle lighting service, will all be part of the festivities. The community is cordially invited to attend.

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The Pastor Speaks

Permit Little Children To Come Unto Me

What do children really want for Christmas? Just ask them.

"What I really want most is not what I can find under the Christmas tree, but to be able to thank God that we can really worship Jesus' birth in our country."

"I hope everyone can have the feeling that his father and mother love him as mine love me, my most precious possession."

"If my father and mother would only be happy and stop quarreling, that is the only Christmas present I would want."

"I used to ask for all kinds of material things just to show off to other kids, just like my mom does to show off things before her card club ladies; but I don't really want them. If I didn't have one thing under the Christmas tree except a deeper love for God, I would be satisfied."

"You might think this sounds crazy, but I wish my parents weren't so soft, and loved me enough to say NO when I yell and clamor to do things that get me in trouble. My pals Dad beats the daylights out of him when he does the mean things I do, but he is crazy about his Dad. I wish mine was like that."

"To have back the days when I stubbed my toe or cut my finger and mother kissed it and it was well, and when Dad took me horseback riding and my little brother played with me. Now my mother and father are divorced, and we don't have a happy Christmas, although we have many Christmas presents.

This is not the Pastor speaks . . . this is your children speaking. For Jesus sake listen to their cry and prayer. Give your children Jesus this Christmas.

Hans Varmer,
Pastor,
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Appomattox, Va.

Evergreen Church To Present Program

The Evergreen Baptist Church cordially invites you to share with them the Christmas presentation, "Chistmas Is A Miracle" on Sunday, December 21, at 7 p.m. in the evening.

The Young Peoples Class of the church are sponsoring a Live Nativity Scene and invite you to come between the hours of 7 and 8 in the evening on December 22, 23, and 24 to share the meaning of Christmas.

The Sunday School Lesson

Comments By Herbert C. Bradshaw
Lesson For December 21, 1975

IN SEARCH OF THE KING
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-2:23
His name shall be called Emmanual [which means, God with us]. Matthew 1:23.

In the Scripture background for this week's International Sunday School lesson it is obvious that Matthew wrote his Gospel for a Jewish readership and to present Jesus as the Savior of all mankind. He had given as the genealogy of Jesus that of His legal father, Joseph, in conformity to Jewish practice of the time which regarded an adopted son in every respect the true son and representative of the family. He also presented the supernatural circumstances attending the conception of Jesus from the point of view and experience of the legal father. He leaves no question that Jesus was conceived through the agency of the Holy Spirit, thus providing Scriptural authority for the phrases of the ancient Christian creed, "who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary."

As Matthew's design in writing a Gospel -- the Good News -- for a Jewish readership is stressed in this series of lessons, it should also be recognized that a major purpose is to present Jesus as the Savior of all mankind. Thus he writes to the Jews, not to support Jewish exclusiveness but rather to show them that the Messiah promised to them brings redemption to all. So he relates a visit from Gentiles as an event in the infancy of Jesus worthy to be preserved.

We are told only that these were Wise Men from the East, that is, from some region east of Palestine. The Greek word translated wise men is magoi, from which they are called the Magi, a name by which priests of the ancient Persian religion of Zoroster were known. So it is supposed that they came from Persia (the modern Iran), though some speculate they may have come from Babylonia, which had been under Persian rule for some two centuries after its conquest by Cyrus until the Persian empire was conquered by Alexander the Great. There were many Jews in Babylonia, descendants of the exiles of the fifth and sixth centuries, B.C., and in Persia, to which many emigrated after Persia had conquered Babylonia. The Jewish influence in Persia may be seen in the Old Testament books of Nehemiah, Esther, and Daniel.

It is likely, then, that the magi, whether from Persia or Babylonia, had learned from the Jews of the Messianic prophecies, which usually cast Messiah in the role of king. The Magi were scientists as well as priests. At a time when the lines were not clearly drawn between astronomy and astrology, they attached great significance to the stars (as the Jews did to dreams). Their calculations led to expect the appearance of an unusual star which they interpreted as signifying the birth of the king who had been foretold by the prophets of Israel.

Some commentators think the star which the Wise Men saw and followed was a supernatural occurrence. Others find a natural explanation, such as the close conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C., but the star has not been definitely identified.

By relating the account of the visit of the Magi, Matthew told the Jews that Messiah had come not only for them but for Gentiles as well. There may be an even stronger symbolism, that Gentiles would seek the Savior, in the coming of the Wise Men from a distance in search of the king of the Jews. In compliment to the Child's kingly station, they brought Him rich gifts. Matthew does not tell us how many Wise Men there were; tradition has set the number at three, probably from the three gifts Matthew recorded, and has even named them, but number and names are conjecture.

The joyous circumstances of the visit and the fine gifts are darkened by the enmity mention of a king of the Jews aroused in Herod, whom the Roman Senate had designated

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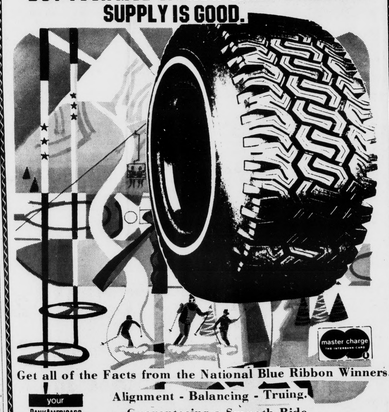

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